Clean versions of claims 27-31 and 38 are presented below:

CLAIM 27. (amended) The gear of claim 31 wherein a first of said arcuately-formed flank surfaces on said tooth of said gear is configured and positionable to engage a first flank surface of a tooth on a mating gear, and wherein a first arcuately-formed facing flank surface on a successive tooth of said gear is configured and positionable to engage a second opposing flank surface of a tooth on said mating gear that is successive to said first tooth on said mating gear.

CLAIM 28. (amended) The gear of claim 31 wherein said arcuately-formed flank surfaces are concave relative to said tooth.

CLAIM 29. (amended) The gear of claim 31 wherein said arcuately-formed flank surfaces are convex relative to said tooth.

CLAIM 30. (amended) The gear of claim 31 wherein each of said arcuately-formed flank surfaces is uninterrupted.

CLAIM 31. (amended) A single part gear capable of reducing backlash, comprising: a plurality of teeth disposed on an outer edge thereof, each tooth of said plurality of teeth having two arcuately-formed flank surfaces, said flank surfaces being arcuately-formed across a width of each tooth of said gear, said gear being efficiently operable under load conditions, and said gear being configured to be run in double flank contact with a worm.

CLAIM 38. (amended) A worm/worm gear assembly, comprising:

a worm; and

a worm gear, said worm gear being engaged in double flank contact with said worm such that a contact area between a tooth of said worm and a tooth of said worm gear is smaller in size at a low load condition than said contact area is at a higher load condition, and such that said contact area at said low-load condition is located at a substantially different position from said contact area at said higher load condition.